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features, but agree with each other more than with those of the remaining families belonging to the same order. They may therefore be regarded as slight deviations from the typical form which heads their family. Thus the *order of beasts of prey* is divided into five *families*, composed of species resembling, in a greater or less degree, either the *dog*, the *cat*, the *bat*, the *weasel*, or the *bear*, which would appear to be the several different models upon which the predatory character was formed. There may, indeed, be other animals which embody the extreme condition of the family to which they belong more fully than these, and which might perhaps afford a better type and denominator for each; but then this cannot interfere with the principles of our grouping, which belong to a system of *relations*; and obviously the general features or relative position of each family will be as little affected by the exchange of its name, for one more expressive of its character, as by an increase of its numbers. We may therefore provisionally associate our animals with what type we please. The remaining orders admit of a like division; and the whole *class of mammalia* then may be divided into five great *natural orders*, and each of these into five *natural families*, which, for convenience, have been further subdivided into genera and species.

"A system like this, the characters of which are impressed upon the several parts of the animal kingdom by the hand of nature, possesses several important advantages over one which is purely artificial, and not modelled upon the outlines of creation. Its symmetry delights the imagination, and therefore takes a firmer hold of the memory, which is the main purpose of all classifications; but in addition to this, its successive branches are so obvious, and so continually suggested to us by familiar circumstances, that, by means of a more and more attentive observance of the features of an animal, we can refer it from a more general to a more particular division, until we arrive at its proper place, amongst its natural associates. It sets before us, too, that beautiful balancing, which is so necessary to preserve the existence and proportional numbers of all, that an error in the grouping would have caused destruction to the whole; and above all, it at once leads to the discovery of many important facts connected with the properties of individual species, and the mutual relations of the several groups.

"It is by means of these relations that all the animals of each family, and all the families of the whole class, are successively united together into one uniform system."

THE WILD BOAR.*

This species is found in all parts of the globe, except in New Holland, and is the original of all our domesticated varieties of the hog. In the wild state, the boar has long been the object of a chase, as celebrated as it is dangerous, his great strength and powerful tusks rendering him truly formidable to both hunters and dogs, the latter of which he tears and tramples upon with the most terrible ferocity.

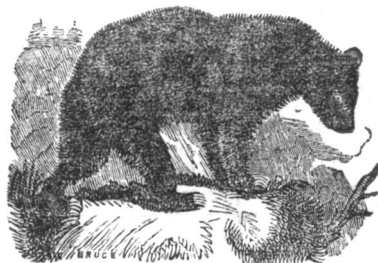
When the wild boar is come to a state of maturity, and when conscious of his own superior strength, he walks the forest alone and fearless. At that time he dreads no single creature, nor does he turn out of his way even for man himself. He does not seek danger, and he does not much seem to avoid it. This animal is therefore seldom attacked but at a disadvantage, either by numbers, or when found sleeping by moonlight. The hunting of the wild boar is one of the principal amusements of the nobility in those countries where it is found. The dogs provided for this sport are of the slow heavy kind; nor are the hunters much mindful of the goodness of their nose, as the wild boar leaves so strong a scent, that it is impossible for them to mistake its course. They never hunt any but the largest and the oldest, which are known by their tracks. When the boar is *reared*, as is the expression for driving him from his covert, he goes slowly and uniformly forward, not much afraid, nor very far before his pursuers. At the end of every half mile, or thereabouts, he turns round, stops till the hounds come up, and offers to attack them. These, on the other hand, knowing their danger, keep off, and bay him at a distance. After they have for a while

gazed upon each other with mutual animosity, the boar again slowly goes on his course, and the dogs renew their pursuit. In this manner the chase is sustained, and the chase is continued till the boar is quite tired, and refuses to go any farther. The dogs then attempt to close in upon him from behind; those which are young, fierce, and unaccustomed to the chase, are generally the foremost, and often lose their lives by their ardour. Those which are older and better trained are content to wait until the hunters come up, who strike at him with their spears, and, after several blows, dispatch or disable him.

In Europe it inhabits dense forests, where it feeds upon vegetables and fallen fruits, and from whence it commits great devastation amongst the crops of the adjoining fields. The old boar usually lives alone, but the females unite together, and with the young form very numerous troops for mutual defence. Their foot, which is formed by two of the bones which represent the human fingers, being placed intermediate between two others of a smaller size, which take a backward direction, and are placed so much above the level of the foot as seldom to touch the ground in walking, furnishes an example of a wise provision of nature for preventing the animal from sinking deep in the soft situations which it frequents.

THE COLLARED PECCARY.*

The peccaries occupy the same place in South America that the pigs do in the old world; from which well-known animals they are distinguished by the number and direction of their teeth, by the shortness of their tails, and by the large gland placed immediately beneath the skin of the loins, which emits the most offensive smell. Their flesh, too, is far inferior to pork, and, unlike the sow, the female brings forth but once in the year, and produces no more than two young at a time. But in their general habits and propensities they resemble the common hog, burrowing in the earth after the same fashion, eating the same kind of food, and expressing their feelings with the same peculiar grunt.



THE BLACK BEAR.

Although naturalists were long in a state of uncertainty with respect to the propriety of separating the black bear of America from the common species, it is obvious that their doubts could only have arisen from the want of sufficient materials for comparison. Whoever has seen the two animals together will at once admit that they belong to species perfectly distinct, so greatly do they differ from each other in figure, in fur, in colour, and even in their gait, attitudes, and manners. The head of the American is narrower, with much more of the physiognomy of the dog; the distance between the ears is proportionally greater; the forehead is more regularly convex, but not quite so much elevated, the line of the profile being continued without any depression above the eyes, and the muzzle is more prominent and pointed. The general proportions of the body and limbs are also smaller; and the whole are covered with soft smooth straight hairs of a deep glossy black throughout the greater part of their length, having none of the shagginess or woolliness which characterizes the fur of the brown bear, and without any intermixture of the lighter-coloured hairs by which the coat of the latter is always more or less grizzled. The muzzle alone is covered with short close-set hairs of a deep brown above, and somewhat lighter on the sides. The tail is more distinctly visible in consequence of the

* See engraving in first page.

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